



Holy Cross Lutheran Church

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Making peace by the blood of his cross – Colossians 1:15-20

Grace, peace, and mercy to you from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

In Fyodor Dostoyevsky's great novel, *The Brothers Karamazov*, four brothers each in their own way represent 19th century Russia's diverging paths. The book's hero, Alyosha, is training to be a monk; he is compassionate and faithful. His older brother Ivan represents the growing atheism in Russia and the rebellion against the old ways. In the book's most famous chapter, "The Grand Inquisitor," Ivan lays out his case against Christianity. There is too much suffering in the world, Ivan insists, to believe there could be an all-powerful, all-good God. How does Alyosha respond to his brother? He says nothing. He steps forward and kisses his brother.

We live a century and a half later and on the other side of the globe. The same cases against faith are made in our language and in our day. Modern hearts and minds rebel in just the same ways against the suffering we see in the world. What answer can the faithful Christian give? Dostoyevsky, an Orthodox Christian himself, is right to remind Christians sometimes the most effective response for the church is to love our neighbors. Many people are not looking for an intellectual answer. They are looking for steadfast love. "O Lord, God of Israel, there is no God like you, in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and showing steadfast love to your servants who walk before you with all their heart" (1 Kings 8:23).

What about the Bible? How does God's Word answer this question? There is no one answer. The Bible looks at this question from a number of angles. In the book of Job, for example, Job asks why he suffers when he has been a faithful servant of God. From within Job's narrative, God speaks as if there is no answer man will comprehend. "Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?" the Creator asks. God's creation is too big for us to rightly judge His governance. On the other hand, the book of Job also shows us what Job cannot see, how God loves Job, boasts in His servant, and is proving to the accuser, Satan, how humanity is worth saving. As a whole, the book of Job insists there is more unjust grace in the world than unjust suffering.

On the other hand, the book of Ecclesiastes laments that however much suffering and injustice there is does not matter to the one stuck in it. Even a little is enough to be a burr in the boot, a constant irritant. In the end, though, Ecclesiastes concludes to be overly focused on things we cannot change is vanity. Ecclesiastes urges us to leave the grand sweep of justice to God and focus on what is good in day-to-day life. "Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil" (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14).

There is another answer from apocalyptic books like Revelation. There we see hope that despite the raging of the rulers of this world, God will restore all things, bringing about a new creation. In other words, if you don't like how this world runs, neither does this world's Creator. He will come and fix our broken world, defeating the powers that corrupt this world. "And he who was seated on the throne said, 'Behold, I am making all things new'" (Revelation 21:5).

When Jesus was asked about suffering in the world, He turned the question around. Luke 13 reveals Jesus' startling answer when asked about an atrocity committed by Pontius Pilate. Jesus says when we see suffering in the world we should repent. My sins may not have caused that particular grief, but my sins have caused grief and injustice. Rather than excuse my sins, saying that injustice was worse, I should confess and turn away from my sins. If I want the world to be better, take responsibility for making it better.

The most powerful response to evil in the world is not something Jesus said about it. The most powerful response is what Jesus did about it. Jesus submitted to all those corrupt courts, submitted to the worst suffering men could invent. It was human beings who invented crucifixion as a way to rule conquered peoples. Jesus accepted all that, dying on the cross for us. God Himself showed enduring the suffering and injustice of this world is worth it. We can get through to the other side, to resurrection and the restoration of all things.

"After you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen and establish you" (1 Peter 5:10). All of the Bible's other responses to evil find their fulfillment in Christ Jesus' victory over death, the devil, and the world. He is with us in this vale of sorrows, and is bringing us through as a Good Shepherd so that surely goodness and mercy will follow us all of our days (Psalm 23).

Your servant in Christ,

Pastor Daniel Guagenti



BIRTHDAYS

3- Tommy Conder
6- Anita Themer
8- Aria Themer
14- Ashley Lancaster
15- Joel Franke
16- Debbie Nelson
16- Lisa McCarty
25- Greg Rutledge
29- Mary Ann Conder
30- David Conder
30- Chris McKinley
30- Robert Myers

VICTORIOUS IN THE LORD

Shelah Eleanor Shreve, member of Holy Cross, received her crown of life on June 4, 2022. May our risen Lord comfort those who mourn.



"I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live."
John 11:25

BAPTISM

On Sunday, June 5, 2022, Malakai Atticus OKelly was received into God's Kingdom of Grace through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. Malakai is the son of Eleanor Scott and Stephen OKelly. Grandparents are Greg and Suzanne Rutledge. We wish Malakai God's continued blessings.



DAY-TIMERS: AUGUST 2

Day-Timers will be joining Fred and Debbie and Ruth Hacker for lunch at Resurrection Lutheran on Tuesday August 2. They will meet at Holy Cross at 11:00am to carpool. Please contact Brenda Moody to find out what you need to bring for the meal.



NEW MEMBERS

On June 26, 2022 we welcomed new members Tammy Clark, Michelle Ewers and Mike Semeniuk (not pictured). We thank the Lord for them and pray that they will be blessed here at Holy Cross.

RALLY DAY ICE CREAM SOCIAL: AUGUST 21

This year's Rally Day is August 21! Please come out for the start of Children's Sunday School, and the celebration after the Divine Service! This year's festivities will be capped off with an ice cream social. Thank you in advance to the Fellowship Committee for this wonderful addition to the day's events! For more information please see Rita Whitehouse or Mark and Marilyn Murray.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

We're reading Malachi Wednesdays at 7 PM in our hybrid zoom/in-person class. Meet at Andy and Nancy Guagenti's house for in-person goodies or join via the zoom link <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/76255818359?pwd=WZl8ISH-i4wOMKxDe14gkulQchxkHe.1> The Guagenti's address is 207 Old Spring Drive, Shelbyville. No Bible Study on August 10.

LUTHERAN DAY AT THE BALLPARK: AUGUST 21

Concordia is inviting all the circuit congregations to enjoy an afternoon at the ballpark as the Louisville Bats face the Omaha Storm on August 21st at 1:05 PM. We have 75 seats on reserve so all of our attendees will sit in the same section. The section is in the shade. RSVP Cara Joynt at cara.joynt@gmail.com by June 30th. The cost is \$11 per ticket. Payments will go directly to Cara as she is handling the reservations and tickets.

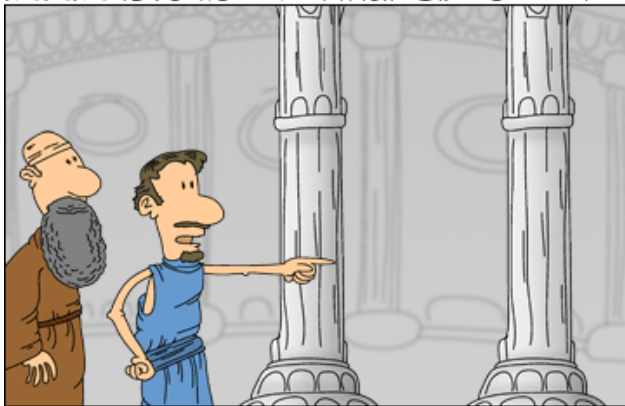
SUMMER TITHING

Dear friends! As we move in to Summer, we are currently running behind our projected giving and budget. Please remember your tithing to Holy Cross this Summer Season. God Bless us and keep us safe! Suzanne Rutledge, Stewardship Chair

PRAYER REQUESTS

We are looking for quarterly updates for prayer requests. We want to know when prayers are answered, when prayers need a new direction, and even when things are just going on as before. To keep any name that is on the prayer request list on for September, please send in a prayer request or update. You can email our church secretary Merrie at secretary@holycrosslutheran-ky.org or Alena running the prayer chain at prayers@holycrosslutheran-ky.org or pastor for any private prayer requests. There are also prayer request cards on the credenza that can be returned in the basket in the secretary's office.

REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



Thanks to Dwayne Smith (See Judges 16) 07-30-2012
THE DESIGN OF THIS TEMPLE PUTS WAY TOO MUCH SUPPORT ON THESE TWO CENTER COLUMNS, THOUGH THEY WOULD BE EXCELLENT FOR CHAINING UP SLAVES

LUTHERANISM 101

Lutheranism 101 is still on the radar but those who have expressed interest asked for us to wait. Let me know if you are interested as we look at beginning after Rally Day.

BATTLE OF THE BADGES BLOOD DRIVE:

AUGUST 17, 11AM-5PM

For the second year in a row, we are hosting the annual Battle of the Badges American Red Cross blood drive. The drive starts at 11 AM on Wednesday, August 17th.

For all you potential donors, there is no age limit. Check out the American Red Cross website for all the donor requirements.

For all you bakers, let's break out our best recipes for cookies and goodies of all kinds for the donors, nurses and volunteers. We never know what could inspire someone to come back on a Sunday morning.

Anyone interested in volunteering on the 17th, please let Corrie know as soon as possible. Thanks in advance for your help and support. Thanks, Corrie

VBS THANK YOU

In July we needed all hands on deck to hold our Vacation Bible School. For three days twenty children learned more about Jesus and how to support missions. We collected \$176 to help send books about God's love to children in Papua New Guinea. The children learned that God values everyone regardless of race, ethnicity or social status. You can view the Holy Cross Facebook page and learn more about what happened at our VBS.

We had many donations of food, decorations, supplies etc. A special thanks to Little Caesars for donating a pizza lunch on the last day of VBS. Many on-site volunteers helped with storytelling, games, crafts, snacks/lunch, opening/closing, setup and takedown. THANK YOU to everyone that helped make our VBS a success.

YOU KNOW YOU MIGHT BE A LUTHERAN IF...

- The pastor skip the last hymn to make sure church lasts exactly 60 minutes.
- You forget to put water in the baptismal font but never forget to put water in the coffee pot

LIFE QUOTES

"Why bother living today as a child of God, striving to follow the Lord's will in words and actions in spite of trials? Why bother showing love and forgiveness toward those who hurt you? Why share the news of a Savior when it seems to have little effect? Because we live in the light of Jesus' love. Our sins are paid for and gone. Jesus' victory is ours. He promises: 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life' (John 8:12). In His light every difficulty, no matter how intimidating in our eyes, fades away. Problems become opportunities for His glory to shine all the more!" *Daily Devotion, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Sister Lakes, Michigan – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*



KNOW YOUR BIBLE



Plagues of Egypt

How many plagues did God send on Egypt to convince Pharaoh to release the Hebrew slaves?

Look for the answer in the September's Newsletter
June/July's Answer: Peter (see Matt. 16:15)

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

Sunday	ACOLYTE	READER	USHERS	CLEANING	NURSERY	ALTAR GUILD	MOWING
August 7	Zachary Semeniuk	Nancy Kovach	Corrie Brian Greg Rutledge	Charlie Adams	Anita Themer	No Communion	Dave Franke Max Themer Aug 10-13
August 14	Nathaniel Guagenti	David Franke	Cindy Alvano John Feole	Franke family	Suzanne Rutledge	No Communion	Mike Carlson Alex VanPelt Aug 17-20
August 21	Masyn Botkins	Charlie Moody	Don Saltzman	Sandy Runner	Merrie Feole	Jennifer Harrod Karen Hite	Dave Themer Brian Gehrman Aug 24-27
August 28	Nathaniel Semeniuk	David Themer	Charlie Moody Rita Whitehouse	Theresa Tippet Jennifer Harrod	Danielle Themer	No Communion	John Feole Anthony Ewers Aug 31– Sep 3
September 4	Eden Guagenti	Nancy Kovach	Alex VanPelt Charlie Adams	Roxanna Pontius Guagenti family	Merrie Feole	Rita Whitehouse Roxanna Pontius	John Feole Pastor Guagenti Sep 7-10
September 11	Brenyn Botkins	David Franke	Corrie Brian Greg Rutledge	Charlie Adams	Anita Themer	No Communion	Dave Themer Max Themer Sep 14-17

IF YOU CANNOT SERVE ON THE APPOINTED DAY, PLEASE CALL SOMEONE TO SERVE IN YOUR PLACE.

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

LCMS Stewardship Ministry

Newsletter article – August 2022

THE CEREMONY OF THE OFFERTORY

Have you ever noticed the subtle ceremony involved in receiving the offerings during the Divine Service? After all the offerings have been collected, they are brought forward and given to the pastor or one of his assistants. The pastor then turns toward the altar, and as he slightly bows his head, the collection plates with the offerings in them are raised slightly to the Lord and then placed either on the altar or a table for the offerings. Why do we do have this ceremony? And what does it teach us? For that is what ceremony does; it teaches, as the Augsburg Confession tells us, what we need to know about Christ (AC XXIV, 1–3).

Originally, this ceremony included more than simply bringing forward what was collected in the offering plates. The elements for the Holy Communion—the bread and the wine—were brought forward along with the offering plates. As the offering plates and the elements were lifted toward the Lord, and placed upon the altar, the elements would be put in the center and the altar, now made a table, would be set for the Lord's Supper.

These gifts brought to the altar came from the sweat of the people's brow. It is the bread and wine, the fruits of the peoples' labor in this fallen world. After six days of labor and toil, the people would bring a generous proportion for the Lord's work. It was set upon the altar and offered to the Lord for Him to take up and press into His service for His gracious work in and among them.

For what they offered to the Lord from the sweat of their brow, the bread of anxious toil, came back to them as the bread of life, the bread come down from heaven that whoever eats this bread and drinks this cup would receive life through the forgiveness of their sins.

This is not unlike what the Lord did for His people in the Old Testament:

You shall tithe all the yield of your seed that comes from the field year by year. And before the Lord your God, in the place that he will choose, to make his name dwell there, you shall eat the tithe of your grain, of your wine, and of your oil, and the firstborn of your herd and flock, that you may learn to fear the Lord your God always. And if the way is too long for you, so that you are not able to carry the tithe, when the Lord your God blesses you, because the place is too far from you, which the Lord your God chooses, to set his name there, then you shall turn it into money and bind up the money in your hand and go to the place that the Lord your God chooses and spend the money for whatever you desire—oxen or sheep or wine or strong drink, whatever your appetite craves. And you shall eat there before the Lord your God and rejoice, you and your household.

What a blessing! God provides for us in all things. He provides bread from the sweat of our brows, and He receives this from us in the first fruits offerings we give to Him in thanksgiving and praise. He receives and turns it into spiritual bread, heavenly bread, the bread of eternal life and gives it back to us so that we might have joy. So, the next time you are in the Divine Service, watch this ceremony in wonder, that the Lord gives back to us, what we have given to Him so that we may rejoice in the salvation He has won upon the cross and gives to us in His supper.

KENTUCKIANA LUTHERAN YOUTH

LCMS youth, youthful, those young at heart, singles, and families with youths are welcome to join us as we bridge the gap between our congregations and schools to provide opportunities for our Lutheran youth to gather, mingle, grow, and worship together.



BRIDGING THE GAP



PLAY

Our Lutheran Youth are spread out across Kentuckiana and need a good excuse to get together and have fun. We are here to make that happen.



LEARN

Our Lutheran schools and parishes do a wonderful job. Let's keep up the momentum by expanding the learning circle with new and exciting resources.



WORSHIP

Let us always celebrate what unites us more than any other thing, that we are saved by Grace alone, through Faith alone, according to Scripture alone. Christ be praised!

JOIN US! EVENTS

- *Pool Parties*
- *Hiking Excursions*
- *Formal Dances*
- *Lock-Ins*
- *Game Nights*
- *Tours*
- *Service Projects*
- *Special Guest Speakers*

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

Calendar of Events will be updated regularly.

Click the follow button so that you don't miss out!

Roe Vs. Wade

What does this mean for ALC?

What are the laws in Kentucky now?

"Change is the only constant in life." -Heraclitus

Since the Supreme Court returned abortion rights to states, we have been asked these questions many times. And as we have already seen, the laws continue to change. We may not be sure what the final ruling will be in Kentucky, but we know one thing for sure - our mission at ALC will remain unchanged.

No matter the law, we will show up and shine God's light for our clients. ALC is a safe haven; we continue to offer a safe place for women to seek accurate information, quality services, care and education. We speak truth, hold hands, and build relationships. We are still here doing the same thing we did yesterday and will continue to do today and tomorrow.

You have heard us say this before, and we will continue to say it - Abortion only ends when hearts are changed, and we are called to be the vessels for that change. It's truly an honor to see that change happening, one heart at a time.

This has long been a topic that is charged with emotions on both sides. While that can be heavy, we choose to continue to share the hope, love and grace of Jesus Christ to every person that walks thru our doors and we continue to rely on our source for that hope.

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." John 16:33

PREGNANCY RESOURCE CENTER
LOCATIONS
Shepherdsville: 368 N. Buckman St.
Shelbyville: 711 Henry Clay St.

ALC

MISSION POSSIBLE:

Saving Lives One Heart
at a Time

FEATURING TIM TEBOW

Monday, October 17 | 7:00-9:00 pm
Crowne Plaza Louisville Airport
830 Phillips Lane | Louisville, KY



Hear from two-time national champion, first-round NFL draft pick
and Heisman Trophy winner, Tim Tebow.



For more information or to
purchase tickets, visit alcgala.com.



SHARING THE POWERFUL GOSPEL

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EVERY SUNDAY
BIBLE STUDY AND SUNDAY SCHOOL-9:45AM
DIVINE SERVICE-11:00AM

AUGUST NEWSLETTER 2022



*Rally Day
Ice Cream Social
August 21, 12:00pm*